

# SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

106th Congress  
1st Session

Vote No. 242

July 30, 1999, 12:42 p.m.  
Page S-9899 Temp. Record

## TAXPAYER REFUND ACT/Higher Taxes, School Construction

**SUBJECT:** Taxpayer Refund Act of 1999 . . . S. 1429. Nickles motion to table the Robb motion to recommit with instructions.

### ACTION: MOTION TO TABLE MOTION TO RECOMMIT AGREED TO, 55-45

**SYNOPSIS:** As reported, S. 1429, the Taxpayer Refund Act of 1999, will give back to the American people \$792 billion of the \$3.3 trillion in surplus taxes that the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has projected that the Federal Government will collect over the next 10 years. The projection is based on assumptions of 2.4-percent average annual growth in the economy, no growth in discretionary spending after 2002, and entitlement spending growth as required under current law. Approximately \$1.9 trillion of the surpluses will be Social Security surpluses (Republicans have been attempting to defeat a Democratic filibuster of a proposal to protect those surpluses from being spent; see vote Nos. 90, 96, 166, 170, 193, and 211). After protecting the Social Security surpluses and providing tax relief of \$792 billion, \$505 billion will remain for additional spending or debt reduction. The average growth rate over the past 50 years has been 3.4 percent. The current growth rate is around 4 percent. If the 3.4-percent average rate is maintained for the next 10 years, then (using the CBO rule-of-thumb chart from Appendix C of the January 1999 Economic and Budget Outlook) the surplus will be roughly \$4.9 trillion, not \$3.3 trillion. Key tax relief provisions include that the bottom tax rate will be lowered to 14 percent and expanded (providing \$297.5 billion in tax relief over 10 years) and the tax burden on families will be cut (providing \$221.7 billion in tax relief). Tax relief will also be given to encourage saving for retirement, to make education and health care more affordable, to lower death taxes, and to lower taxes on small businesses.

**The Robb motion to recommit** with instructions would instruct the Finance Committee to report the bill back within 3 days with an amendment "reducing or deferring by \$5.7 billion over the next 10 years certain new tax rates in the bill that benefit those who least need relief." (During debate, supporters of the motion stated that their intent in making the motion would be to spend the higher amounts collected in taxes on public school construction projects).

All votes after vote No. 233 were on amendments or motions that were made after all debate time had expired. However, 2

(See other side)

YEAS (55)		NAYS (45)		NOT VOTING (0)	
Republicans (55 or 100%)	Democrats (0 or 0%)	Republicans (0 or 0%)	Democrats (45 or 100%)	Republicans (0)	Democrats (0)
Abraham	Hutchinson		Akaka	Kennedy	
Allard	Hutchison		Baucus	Kerrey	
Ashcroft	Inhofe		Bayh	Kerry	
Bennett	Jeffords		Biden	Kohl	
Bond	Kyl		Bingaman	Landrieu	
Brownback	Lott		Boxer	Lautenberg	
Bunning	Lugar		Breaux	Leahy	
Burns	Mack		Bryan	Levin	
Campbell	McCain		Byrd	Lieberman	
Chafee	McConnell		Cleland	Lincoln	
Cochran	Murkowski		Conrad	Mikulski	
Collins	Nickles		Daschle	Moynihan	
Coverdell	Roberts		Dodd	Murray	
Craig	Roth		Dorgan	Reed	
Crapo	Santorum		Durbin	Reid	
DeWine	Sessions		Edwards	<b>EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:</b> Robb—Official Business Rockefeller—Necessarily Absent Sarbanes—Illness Schumer—Other Tortorella—Other	
Domenici	Shelby		Feingold		
Enzi	Smith, Bob (I)		Feinstein		
Fitzgerald	Smith, Gordon		Graham		
Frist	Snowe		Harkin		
Gorton	Specter		Hollings	Wellstone	
Gramm	Stevens		Inouye	<b>SYMBOLS:</b> AY—Announced Yea AN—Announced Nay PY—Paired Yea PN—Paired Nay	
Grams	Thomas		Johnson		
Grassley	Thompson				
Gregg	Thurmond				
Hagel	Voinovich				
Hatch	Warner				
Helms					

Compiled and written by the staff of the Republican Policy Committee—Larry E. Craig, Chairman

minutes of debate were allowed before each vote by unanimous consent, some statements were inserted in the record, and some amendments and motions were debated prior to being offered or made. Senator Nickles moved to table the Robb motion. Generally, those favoring the motion to table opposed the motion to recommit; those opposing the motion to table favored the motion to recommit.

**Those favoring** the motion to table contended:

We have had this debate several times in the past. We believe that it would be a serious mistake for the Federal Government to attempt to take over the building and repair of public schools around the country. Those decisions have always been handled locally, and we believe those types of decisions are best handled locally. Therefore, we must oppose this attempt to have the Federal Government intrude into an area of State and local responsibility.

**Those opposing** the motion to table contended:

In 1995 the General Accounting Office (GAO) estimated that approximately \$112 billion would have to be spent on repairs of existing public schools and on construction of new public schools in order to ensure that all children had clean, safe, and technologically modern facilities in which to learn. Ever since the GAO made that estimate, we have been fighting to get our Republican colleagues to support funding for a new Federal public school construction program. We have not yet succeeded; we have offered the Robb motion to try again. We urge our colleagues not to table this motion.